

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 NAIROB 07535 161144Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 FEA-01 OES-07 /026 W

-----162211Z 090814 /62

R 161022Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO USDOC WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9009

UNCLAS NAIROBI 7535

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BENC, BEXP, KE

SUBJ: MAJOR PROJECT EARLY WARNING - OLKARIA GEOTHERMAL PROJECT

1. EAST AFRICA OWER AND LIGHTING COMPANY LTD. IS DEVELOPING GEOTHERMAL ENERGY POTENTIAL FOR ELECTRICITY GENERATION AT OLKARIA IN KENYA'S RIFT VALLEY. PLANS CALL FOR A 15MW PILOT SCHEME TO BE OPERATIONAL IN 1980. MERZ & MCLELLAN (U.K. CONSULTING ENGINEERS) ARE PRESENTLY PREPARING AN ENGINEERING DESIGN STUDY AND CORROSION TESTING OF TURBINE MATERIALS WILL BE PERFORMED BY AN ICELANDIC FIRM, VIRKIR CONSULTING GROUP. SUPPLY TENDERS FOR THE 15MW PILOT PROJECT ARE EXPECTED IN MID-1978. WITH COMPETITIVE PRICING, U.S. SUPPLIERS ARE IN AN EXCELLENT POSITION TO CAPTURE THE EQUIPMENT AWARDS. ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION AWARDS ARE ALSO POSSIBLE, BUT U.S. FIRMS WILL HAVE TO OVERCOME AN IMAGE OF UNCOMPETITIVENESS REGARDING PRICE AND INEXPERIENCE REGARDING SMALLER-SCALE GEOTHERMAL ELECTRIFICATION PROJECTS. SOURCE: CHIEF EXECUTIVE, EAST AFRICAN POWER AND LIGHTING COMPANY, LIMITED.

2. AN IMPORTANT NOTICE RELATED TO THE OLKARIA GEOTHERMAL PROJECT, THE TEXT OF WHICH FOLLOWS, APPEARED IN NAIROBI PAPERS JUNE 15TH. QUOTE INVITATIONS HAVE ALREADY BEEN ISSUED TO A NUMBER OF STEAM TURBINE MANUFACTURERS TO PARTICIPATE IN A SERIES OF CORROSION TESTS ON TURBINE MATERIALS IN STEAM FROM THE OLKARIA GEOTHERMAL WELLS. TURBINE MANUFACTU-  
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RERS OR THEIR LOCAL AGENTS WISHING TO OBTAIN FURTHER INFOORMATION ABOUT THIS TESTING PROGRAMME SHOULD APPLY IN WRITING BEFORE JUNE 30, 1977 TO: MERZ & MCLELLAN, CONSULTING ENGINEERS, KILLINGWORTH, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE, ENGLAND, NE12 ORS. TELEX: 53561. SIGNED CHIEF ENGINEER, GENERATION, EAP&L.  
UNQUOTE.  
LINDSTROM

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
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**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009